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RUSHDEN
URBAN DISTRICT

Annual Reports

FOR THE YEAR 1937

of the

Medical Officer of Health,

O. A. J. N. MURISET,

M.B., Ch.B., Edin.

and of

The Sanitary Inspector,

FREDERICK S. F. PIPER,

M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

RUSHDEN :
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Rushden Urban District Council.

Members of the Health and Sanitary Committee:

E. A. SUGARS, *Chairman*
W. E. CAPON,
Chairman of Council
J. ALLEN
T. W. COX
R. W. DAVIES
F. GREEN
J. H. J. PARAGREEN
J. T. RICHARDSON
A. F. WEALE

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. O. A. J. N. MURISET, M.B., Ch.B., Edin.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. S. F. PIPER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDA.

Area					3,777 acres
POPULATION CENSUS, 1901					12,447
,,	,,	1911	...	...	13,354
,,	,,	1921	...	...	13,511
,,	,,	1931	...	...	14,247
Number of Inhabited Houses, Dec., 1931 (Census)					3,827
,,	,,	,,	,, 1934	...	4,005
,,	,,	,,	,, 1935	...	4,254
,,	,,	,,	,, 1936	...	4,400
,,	,,	,,	,, 1937	...	4,544

SITUATION.

Latitude, 52 dg. 17 m. N. Longitude, 36 m. W.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

Limestone, Sand and Clay.

ELEVATION OF AREA.

150 feet to 300 feet.

RAINFALL IN INCHES.

1936—28.36. 1937—29.43.
Average—1936, 2.36 per month. 1937, 2.45 per month.

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RUSHDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUSHDEN.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Public Health of the Urban District of Rushden for the year 1937. In formation the Report will follow to a great extent those of previous years.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	3,777
Population 1931 (Census)	14,247
Estimated population 1931	14,280
Estimated population 1936	14,740
Registrar General's estimated population 1937	14,890
Number of Inhabited houses, 1936	4,400
Number of inhabited houses, 1937	4,544
Rateable Value	£78,349
Sum represented by a penny rate	£300

An examination of the above Tables shows that the estimated population for 1937, namely 14,890, exceeds that of 1936 by 150. The number of inhabited houses for the year 1937 is 4,544, an increase of 144 over last year's figures.

The rateable value of £78,349 shows the very considerable increase of £3,249, and the sum represented by the penny rate is now £300 as against £290 in 1936.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		totals	*males*	*females*
Live Births :	Legitimate ...	186	93	93
	Illegitimate ...	5	3	2
		191	96	95

Birth Rate 12.82 per 1,000 of resident population.

		total	*males*	*females*
Still Births :	Legitimate ...	4	2	2
	Illegitimate ...	—	—	—

Rate 20.51 per 1,000 total live and still births.

Deaths—155.

Death Rate—10.4 per 1,000 of resident population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total live & still births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil.
Other puerperal causes ...	Nil.	Nil.
Total	Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	31.41
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	26.88
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	200
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1

Local Birth Rate.

The Returns of the Registrar General show that there were 191 live births during the year 1937. Of this total 96 were males and 95 females. Of the births five were illegitimate, three being males and two being females. There were four still births, two being males and two females all of which were amongst legitimate children. The birth rate for the year is, therefore, 12.82 per thousand of the resident population.

It is extremely satisfactory that the increase in the birth rate which was first noted in 1935 is being maintained, and although the increase is not large it is a step in the right direction.

In last year's report considerable detail with reference to the birth rate was set forth and it is not proposed to labour this point again this year. One must be satisfied with the small but steady increase of the last three years. The local birth rate still remains below that for England and Wales as a whole, namely, 14.9.

Birth Rate.

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Rushden	11.27	11.93	11.69	11.17	12.09	12.34	12.82
England and Wales	15.8	15.3	14.4	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.9

Local Death Rate.

The number of deaths recorded in the year 1937 was 155. Of these deaths 74 were among males and 81 among females, giving a death rate of 10.4. This year's figure is considerably improved when compared with that for last year, namely 11.32, and it compares well with that for England and Wales as a whole, namely 12.4.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal Causes. Cancer was the cause of death in 21 instances while Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea each accounted for one death. There were no deaths from Measles. The number of deaths is exceeded this year by the births to the number of 36, a very satisfactory figure.

Local Death Rate.

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Rushden	10.78	9.97	11.06	12.49	10.65	11.32	10.4

Infantile Mortality.

The infant mortality rate (the number of deaths amongst infants under one year per thousand infants born) for 1937 is 31.41. This figure must be regarded as extremely satisfactory although it is somewhat above that for 1936, namely, 27.47. It can hardly be expected that last year's figure could be wholly maintained, and the local figure compares well with that for England and Wales which for the year 1937 was 58.

The actual number of deaths amongst infants was six, two being males and four being females. It is extremely gratifying to again be able to congratulate the town on success of the Maternity and Child Welfare Workers. For excellent figures for infant mortality must, to a large extent, be due to their efforts.

Infant Mortality.

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Rate	49.68	58.85	47.61	49.68	85.22	27.47	31.41

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis was the cause of death in only four instances. All the deaths recorded were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis there being no deaths from Other Forms of Tuberculosis. The mortality rate for the year is the extraordinarily low figure of .26 which is the lowest ever recorded in the town. It can hardly be expected that such a low figure will be maintained in the future.

Tuberculosis.

	1930	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
No. of deaths	8.	10.	11.	16.	11.	11.	12.	4.
Mortality Rate—	.55	.70	.77	1.11	.76	.75	.81	.26

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
No. of deaths	7.	10.	10.	14.	10.	5.	9.	4.
Mortality Rate—	.49	.70	.70	.97	.69	.34	.61	.26

Cancer.

There were 21 deaths from Cancer in the year 1937 giving a mortality rate of 1.41. These figures show an increase when compared with those of last year, namely 18 and 1.22, and have only been exceeded once during the last 10 years, namely, in 1934.

Cancer.

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
No. of deaths	11.	17.	10.	20.	22.	16.	18.	21.
Mortality Rate—	.78	1.18	.7	1.39	1.52	1.09	1.22	1.41

Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels.

Again this year there is some increase in the number of deaths from diseases of the heart and blood vessels, the year's figures being 68, giving a mortality rate of 4.56. Looking at the figures for the last ten years, it is not a little alarming to note the steady increase in the number of deaths from these diseases. This year's figure is the second highest ever recorded in the town. It was only exceeded in 1934, when there were no less than 81 deaths from these causes.

Of the diseases included under this heading Cerebral haemorrhage accounted for 10 deaths. Actual diseases of the heart caused death in 52 instances. Aneurysm caused one death and five deaths are recorded as being due to other circulatory diseases.

Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels.

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
No. of deaths	38.	47.	48.	53.	81.	51.	66.	68.
Mortality Rate—	2.78	3.29	3.37	3.69	5.62	3.5	4.47	4.56

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Other Respiratory Diseases.

There were 10 deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia in the year 1937, the mortality rate being .67. This is a slight improvement on the figures for the last two years. Both Bronchitis and Pneumonia each accounted for 5 deaths.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Other Respiratory Diseases.

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
No. of deaths	16.	23.	18.	9.	9.	12.	12.	10.
Mortality Rate—	1.14	1.61	1.26	.62	.62	.82	.81	.67

The Death Rate as a Whole.

1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
9.05	8.63	10.78	9.97	11.06	12.49	10.65	11.32	10.4

The above Table shows that the death rate for 1937 is 10.4, this being the lowest death rate for the last 5 years and compares satisfactorily with that for England and Wales, namely, 12.4.

Deaths at all Ages.

The following Table shows the age distribution of the deaths for the year 1937. The Table is an analysis of the Returns received from the Local Registrar.

Again this year it should be noted that there is a discrepancy of 2 between the local figures and those of the Registrar General.

Totals	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over
144	7		1		1	1	1	3	11	8	44	67
	Inward Transfers. Add											
37	2					1	1	1	3	2	8	19
181	9		1		1	2	2	4	14	10	52	86
	Outward Transfers. Deduct											
28	3		1			1		3	7	5	8	
	Totals											
153	6				1	1	2	1	7	5	44	86

The following Table shows in detail the causes of death as returned by the Registrar General.

Causes of Deaths	*males*	*females*
All causes	74	51
Other liver diseases	—	2
Other digestive diseases	—	—
Acute and chronic Nephritis	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal diseases	—	—
Chronic debility, premature birth, etc. ...	1	3
Senility	—	—
Suicide	4	1
Other violence	2	3
Other defined diseases	6	6
Ill defined or not known	1	1
Diarrhoea	—	—
Diabetes	2	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	7
Heart disease	22	30
Aneurysm	1	—
Other circulatory diseases...	4	1
Bronchitis	3	2

Cause of Deaths	*males*	*females*
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	2
Other Respiratory diseases	—	—
Peptic ulcer	2	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—
Appendicitis	—	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	—
Measles	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	3	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	2	2
Other Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphillis	—	2
Cancer	9	12

Causes of Sickness and Invalidity.

The number of notifiable diseases is as a rule a very good indication of the general health of the population and this year the number of these diseases is 46, one of the lowest returned during the last 20 years and the figure compares well with that of last year, namely 93.

In spite of this excellent figure Pneumonia was fairly prevalent and accounted for 24 of the notifications. Eight of the cases were notified in January and the rest were fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. In August, September and December no cases of Pneumonia were notified. Of the other infectious diseases Scarlet Fever accounted for 7 cases and Diphtheria for 4. There was one case of Typhoid of which the source could not be traced, and this occurred in the month of June. There was a considerable amount of influenza in the early months of the year and this, no doubt, accounts for the large number of cases of Pneumonia notified in January. It could not, however, be said that Influenza reached epidemic porportions.

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Staff.

MEDICAL OFFICER—PART TIME.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—WHOLE TIME.

In each case half of the Salary is recoverable from the Exchequer Grants through the County Council.

Laboratory Work.

There has been no change during the year in the arrangements made in previous years in connection with the examination of clinical material. The Pathological Department of the Northampton General Hospital still undertakes Laboratory work in this connection. The Laboratory of the County Council has for several years past carried out the examination of Sputa for the presence of Tubercle Bacillus. The Practitioners of the Town have made full use of the various facilities.

The Table which follows shows that one specimen was examined for Tuberculosis with a negative result. Thirty-seven Swabs were examined for Diphtheria but only 8 were returned as positive. Two examinations were made in connection with Typhoid and in both instances the result was negative. No return is made from the County Council Laboratory of the number of Sputa examined.

Analysis of Pathological Specimens examined at the Northampton General Hospital Laboratory.

Specimen	*Total*	*Positive*	*Negative*
Tuberculosis ...	1	—	1
Diphtheria ...	37	8	29
Typhoid	2	—	2
Total	40	8	32

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin in phials of six different strengths is kept at the Public Health Department and is available free of charge to the Medical Practitioners of the town.

Ambulance Facilities.

The work of the transportation of patients to and from the County Hospitals at Northampton and Bedford has, as in the past, been carried out in the usual excellent manner by the Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association. Calls for the Ambulance are always promptly answered both night and day. The fact that a telephone has been installed at the Ambulance Sergeant's residence has proved to be of the very greatest service and by this means much valuable time in the admission of urgent cases to hospital has been saved.

Nursing in the Home.

The Rushden Nursing Association has throughout the year retained the services of two District Nurses. About the middle of the year there was a change in the nursing personnel but this has made no difference to the splendid work done by the two nurses. Both Nurses hold the Certificate of The Central Mid-wives Board. At various times, particularly in the latter part of the year, their work has been so heavy that on occasions an extra nurse has been required.

The nursing of infectious diseases, for example, measles and puerperal sepsis is in the hands of the County Council but no call for this service was made during 1937.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre holds Clinics each Wednesday at the Independent Wesleyan Church Schools in Queen Street. It is under the administration of the County Council. The Lady Medical Officer who attends once a fortnight is a member of the County Council Public Health Staff and she is assisted in the work of the Clinic by a Health Visitor and a Committee of Ladies.

It may not be out of place here to mention the great loss Rushden has sustained by the death in the latter part of the year of Dr. Lila S. Gregg. I am making no exaggera-

tion when I say that Dr. Gregg was deeply loved not only by the Mothers and Children with whom she came in contact during her work but by everyone who had the privilege of her friendship and of working with her. Rushden has much to thank Dr. Gregg for, because the fall in the Infant Mortality Rate which has been noted in past years was largely a result of her energy and wise guidance. Her memory will be revered in Rushden for many years to come.

Hospitals.

There are three hospitals within the Urban area of Rushden, namely, the Small-pox Hospital, the Cottage Hospital and the Rushden House Sanitorium.

The Small-pox Hospital which is situated on the southern boundary of the town adjoins the Bedford Road is under the Administration of the Urban District Council. In this Institution there are two wards each capable of accommodating 12 beds and attached there are the usual administrative offices. As in the past the resident caretaker has been in charge of the building.

The Small-pox Hospital is not fully equipped but it is always ready to receive two or three patients, and should the necessity arise full equipment of the hospital can be carried out quickly. The resident caretaker has kept the buildings in an excellent condition throughout the year but fortunately there have been no cases of Small-pox.

The Cottage Hospital is situated in the centre of the town and has accommodation for two beds. It is presided over by a resident nurse and is under the administration of a Local Committee. As in past years this Institution has only been used for minor cases. The scheme mentioned in last year's report for the provision of a new Institution with greater accommodation has been further considered, but it is not likely that the scheme will materialize for some time to come. Such an Institution could not be maintained without the full support of the Local Trades Hospital Committee.

The Rushden House Sanatorium is situated in the south-western portion of the town and abuts on the Wymington Road. The Sanatorium is under the Administration of the Northamptonshire County Council. During the year considerable changes have taken place in this Institution. A

new block for female patients was opened and the erection of a new treatment block was commenced. It is understood that the wooden huts which have given excellent service for many years are being gradually replaced by more permanent brick buildings, in which are incorporated all the most modern ideas in the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. In the Institution there is provision for 84 in-patients. Both the early and more advanced cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are treated. Patients are for the most part drawn from persons resident within the County, but a few of the beds are reserved for the London County Council. The Institution has continued its excellent work throughout the year and 98.1 per cent. of the beds were occupied.

In the matter of the provision of hospital accommodation for the treatment of infectious diseases, little or no progress has been made during the year and Rushden is, therefore, still under the necessity of having such cases treated in their own homes. The scheme for combining several districts with a Central Infectious Diseases Hospital at Wellingborough remains for the moment in abeyance, but it is expected that progress in the establishment of such a scheme will not be long delayed.

Mid-Wifery and Maternity Services.

At the end of 1937 there were three practising Mid-wives in the town, each of whom hold the Certificate of the Central Mid-wives Board. Two of the Mid-wives are also fully trained nurses. A maternity home has for some years been established in the town under the direction of one of the Mid-wives already mentioned.

Rushden has no institutional provision for dealing with unmarried mothers and illegitimate children or for Infant life protection. The Wellingborough and District Moral Welfare Association, however, does a great deal of this type of work voluntarily. The executive work of this Association is carried out by a trained lady worker and her services to Rushden have been of the greatest value.

There is a Health Visitor who is a member of the County Council Public Health Staff resident in the Town. Her duties are to a large extent the visiting of homes in which

babies have recently been born as well as assisting in the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic. Her help and advice is greatly valued by the young mothers of the town who seek her assistance at all times.

The Manfield Orthopaedic Clinic which acts as a local out-patient department of the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, holds its Clinics every alternate Friday at the Y.M.C.A. buildings and is visited periodically by the Assistant Director of Orthopaedics. The work of this Clinic appears to go on increasing and it continues to do much valuable work.

The Tuberculosis After-care Committee continues to do the often difficult work of looking after the welfare of the town's sufferers from Tuberculosis. The Committee is dependent on the generosity of Local Bodies for its finances, and it says a great deal for the sympathy and feeling that the town has for this work that the finances are always in a very healthy state. While the provision of extra nourishment and the distribution of Christmas parcels forms a large part of the material activities of the Committee, the kindly help and interest shewn to the patients by the members of the Visiting Committee is of no small importance for it is through the members of this Committee that the sufferers are made to feel that the Town truly has their welfare at heart. Words of sympathy and encouragement are of the greatest importance in encouraging the sufferers to sustain their efforts to carry out all that they have been taught to do for their own welfare. A class of instruction in the making of light leather goods has been of the greatest service to many of the patients, for this leather work not only gives them something interesting to do but provides them with a little pocket money.

Legislation.

A list of Bye-laws and Adoptive Acts made and adopted by the Rushden Urban District Council is appended :—

BYE-LAWS.

19th Nov., 1891.	Bye-laws as to new streets and buildings.
20th April, 1925.	Bye-laws as to new streets and buildings.
19th August, 1903.	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations.
13th Nov., 1907.	Bye-laws for the prevention of Nuisances.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

5th Nov., 1891.	Part 3 of the Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890.
27th August, 1902.	Public Libraries Act, 1892.
30th March, 1893.	Private Street Works Act.
22nd August, 1908.	Parts 2 and 3 and Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 and 68 of Part 4, of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907, subject to certain conditions and adaptions.
28th June, 1921.	Part 6 of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907.
9th June, 1926.	Baths and Wash-houses Acts.
1st Nov., 1934.	Parts 2, 3, and 4, of the Public Health Act, 1925, except Sections 21 and 22 in Part 2 and Section 44 in Part 3.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply.

The water supply of the town is under the control of the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board and is drawn from the Reservoir at Sywell which is situated about 11 miles from the Town. The " Constant Type " of supply is provided and the water is of excellent quality both chemically and bacteriologically. The water from the Wymington Wells is only used for the town in cases of emergency.

After passing through the filters at Sywell the water is pumped to the Service Reservoir close to the Bedford Road on the high ground about a mile south of the town. From here the water flows by gravitation to maintain the town's supply. It will be remembered that in 1934 and 1935 there was some curtailment of the water supply owing to the drought and it was decided that an auxiliary water supply should be established. The erection of new works at Hard Water Crossing has been proceeding during the year and it is expected that this auxiliary water supply will be ready in the early part of 1938, but it will only be used if the town is again threatened with curtailment of its water supply.

In the Urban area of the town practically all the houses are ' on ' the Supply, but in a few instances several houses share an outside stand-pipe. In the outlying districts of the town there are 106 houses which depend on wells for their water. During 1937 a total of 121,390,000 gallons were supplied to Rushden and Higham Ferrers, 15.70 gallons per head per day being supplied for domestic uses and 2.21 gallons per head per day for trade purposes.

At the end of the year during an enquiry into another matter it was found that the water supply of some bungalows recently built in the Court Estate close to the junction of the Newton and Avenue Roads was found to be extremely unsatisfactory. These houses derive their water supply from shallow wells most of which are 11 feet deep. The ground on which these houses are built is inadequately drained and the surrounding land during wet weather tends to become water logged. The result of this is that the ground water rises about the level of the tops of the wells and they become contaminated in this way from the surface drainage. In view of this unsatisfactory condition the question of providing the houses in this area with a proper water supply must be faced. Two means of doing this suggest themselves. The first is the sinking of a deep Artesian well in the neighbourhood in order to tap the water below the first impermiable geological layer. It is not certain, of course that the sinking of such a well would be either possible or satisfactory. The most reasonable way of providing these houses with a water supply is an extension of our present water service but in order to do this a Water Tower would be required. Such a scheme as this is bound to be expensive, but if it were put in force all the houses on the Court Estate which are now wholly dependent on their wells could be provided with water. This matter of water supply for the Court Estate will, no doubt, be considered in the near future, and in the meantime the occupants of the 21 bungalows have been instructed to boil all water used for potable purposes.

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage.

The Water Carriage System of sewage disposal obtains in the truly Urban area of the Town. The main out-fall sewers carry the sewage to the Sewage Disposal Works which are

situated in the lowest part of the town between the Wellingborough Road and the Railway. Here the sewage is dealt with by the Double Filtration Method, and after screening and passing through a Detritus tank the sewage flows through the specially prepared Filter Beds and the effluent, which is of excellent quality, passes into the Brook and from thence into the Nene. During the year the average daily flow was 568,011 gallons making a total of 207,424,015 gallons for the year. In addition to this 19,797,575 gallons of storm water were dealt with at the works.

In certain of the outlying districts of the town cesspools are still in use as the method of sewage disposal. In last year's report an extension of the sewer to St. Crispin's Estate was strongly recommended. During 1937 this extension was carried out but at the end of the year only two houses on St. Crispin's Estate had actually been connected with the sewer. It is hoped that before long the residents of St. Crispin's Estate will take advantage of the proximity of the sewer, which is laid along the Wellingborough Road, and connect up with it.

Attention was drawn in last year's report to the fact that new sewers in certain parts of the town would soon be required. The need for these works is steadily becoming more acute for building operations are still proceeding and each year the main sewers are becoming more and more overloaded. While up to the present this overloading has not caused any serious danger to the public health the question of the provision of new sewers will soon have to be faced.

The Brook which runs through the centre of the town is for the most part culverted, but where it is open the bed is lined with bricks. This facilitates the periodical cleansing and during the year it has been kept in a satisfactory sanitary condition. A considerable quantity of water is removed from the Brook for trade purposes so that the flow of water from Duck Street onwards has for the past few years been considerably reduced.

Closet Accommodation.

All the houses in the truly Urban area are provided with closets and flushing cisterns and are connected with the sewers. In the outlying districts, however, the conservancy system still remains.

Public Cleansing.

From January to the 30th June the collection of house refuse was carried out by means of six closed and one open cart. From the 1st July onwards the work of the collection of house refuse has been carried out by two motor freighters. In the first half of the year 2,754 loads were collected and from July 801 loads were carried by the new motor freighters, each load being ten cubic yards. The refuse is carried to the two Tips, one situated close to the Bedford Road and the other in the Wellingborough Road District. The ' Tip and Cover ' system is still the method of dispoal and this system has been proved to be very satisfactory. No nuisance can be caused for the refuse is never left exposed for a period longer than twelve hours.

Disinfection.

During the year the Steam Disinfector has been used for the disinfection of 490 articles of bedding, wearing apparel, etc., and has given good service. The number of rooms disinfected was 47, Disinfectant sprays and Formalin lamps being used for this purpose. Three houses were disinfested from vermin.

Sanitary Inspections.

One thousand, five hundred and seventy-nine inspections were conducted by the Sanitary Inspector during the year. Preliminary notices to the number of 154 and statutory notices to the number of 4 were served. Forty-nine cautionary letters were sent and as a result of these notices and letters 414 defects were remedied. In the Report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended full details of these inspections will be found.

Swimming Baths.

It has been customary since the Swimming Baths have been opened to take samples of water for bacteriological examination. Again this year, on the 23rd July, specimens of the water were taken from the middle of the Swimming Bath and also from the side. In each case the results were extremely satisfactory. The filtration and chlorination has been carried out in a most efficient manner. Users of the Swimming Bath need have no fear of contracting any infection from the water.

Housing.

The following Table shows that a total of 149 new houses were erected during the year. Of these seven were erected by the Local Authority and 142 by private enterprise.

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

1.	(*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	108
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	255
2.	(*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head I. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	43
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	163
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil.
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	42

II. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 87

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 4
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
   (*a*) By owners 4
   (*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil.
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
   (*a*) By owners ... ... Nil.
   (*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil.
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil.

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil.

IV. Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding :—

(*a*)	1.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	31
	2.	Number of families dwelling therein ...	31
	3.	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	244
(*b*)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil.
(*c*)	1.	Number of cases or overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil.
	2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil.
(*d*)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.
(*e*)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil.

It will be seen from an examination of the above Table that there have been no actions taken under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act of 1930, all the work in connection with this matter having been completed in 1936.

Overcrowding.—Housing Act, 1936.

It will be noted that the conditions during 1937 remained as they were at the end of 1936, when it was found that 31 houses were overcrowded. The number of persons affected in this way being 244. The erection of new dwelling-houses by the Local Authority for the housing of overcrowded families was proceeding during the year and it is expected that by the early months of 1938 most of this overcrowding will have disappeared.

1.—INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	62	20	—
Workshops ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	17	3	—
Workplaces ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	1	1	—
Total	80	24	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Refered to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4		
Want of ventilation	—	—		
Overcrowding	1	1		
Want of drainage of floors	1	1		
Other nuisances	1	1		
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient	2	2		
Sanitary accommodation { unsuitable or defective	39	39		
Sanitary accommodation { not separate for sexes	—	—		
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act :				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	—	—		
Other offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).	—	—		
Total	48	48	Nil.	Nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply has had great attention paid to it during the year and no less than 141 inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with it. A total of 109 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination.

It may not be out of place to mention that there has been considerable dissatisfaction with the results of these bacteriological examinations. A new method of testing has been in force and the results have been so erratic that it has not been felt that they could be truly relied upon.

There is one matter which may be noted here in passing, and that is that during the last year or so some increase in the prevalence of Glandular Tuberculosis has been noted. Experience has taught us that this condition is in a large measure due to the Bovine Tubercle Bacillus.

Pasteurised milk is now obtainable in the Town.

Food Premises.

The Sanitary Inspector made 486 visits to food premises. Three hundred and eighty-three of these were made to Slaughterhouses and 85 to Butchers' shops. Full details of this work will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Number of Inspections made	486
Meat and other foods condemned as unfit for food :— 1 ton, 10 cwts., 0 qrs., 24½ lbs.	
Slaughterhouses	383
Butchers' Shops	85
Grocery Stores	2
Fish Shops	3
Ice Cream Premises	5
Meat Vans	5
Other Food Premises	3
Total	486

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	751	81	30	1060	1764. ~~1564~~
Number inspected	512	73	3	1045	1564
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	30	2	Nil.	2	46
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	5.85%	2.7%	—	.19%	2.94%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	51	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	71
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	10.15%	—	—	—	4.79%

The above figures do not include carcases, parts of carcases, edible offal and butchers' meat inspected in butchers' shops and butchers' premises. This meat supply being brought from outside the district. There are 14 butchers' shops in this town receiving their meat supply in this way.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Cowsheds Inspected	21
Dairies Inspected	8
Proposed Dairies	1
Milkstores	1
Proposed Milkstores	1
Samples of milk taken for Bacteriological Examination	109
Total	141

Slaughterhouses.

Licensed	4
Registered	3
Total	7

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease.

The Table which follows gives an analysis of the number of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	—	—
Diphtheria	4	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	24	—	5
Erysipelas	7	—	—
Acute Anterio Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—
Total	46	3	5

Notifiable Diseases.

The following Tables show the monthly Incidence of infectious diseases (including Tuberculosis) and also the age periods in which they occur.

Months	Diphtheria	Scarlet fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Typhoid	Paratyphoid	Puerperal Pyrexia	Anterio Poliomyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
JANUARY			8									8
FEBRUARY		2	2		1							5
MARCH		1	2		2	1			1			7
APRIL ...			2	2	1							5
MAY ...		1	1	1	1	1						5
JUNE ...	1		1		1		1					4
JULY ...	3		3	1	2					1		10
AUGUST ...												—
SEPTEMBER			2	2		1						5
OCTOBER			1		1	1						3
NOVEMBER		1	2								1	4
DECEMBER		2		1	3							6
TOTALS	4	7	24	7	12	4	1		1	1	1	62

Disease	Totals	Un 1yr	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & ov
Scarlet fever ...	7					3	3			1			
Diphtheria ...	4						1	1	1	1			
Typhoid ...	1										1		
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1										1		
Pneumonia ...	24		2	1			2			4	1	4	10
Erysipelas ...	7								1	1		3	2
Acute Anterio Poliomyelitis	1			1									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1											
TOTALS ...	46	1	2	2		3	6	1	2	7	3	7	12

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Analysis of Deaths under Age Groups											
				Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over.
Scarlet fever ...	7	—	—												
Diphtheria ...	4	—	—												
Typhoid ...	1	1	—												
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	—												
Pneumonia ...	24	—	5											1	4
Erysipelas ...	7	—	—												
Acute Anterio Poliomyelitis	1	1	—												
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—												
	46	3	5											1	4
Cases notified prior to 1937															
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	2											1	1
TOTALS ...	46	3	7											2	5

These Tables show that there were 7 cases of Scarlet Fever, 4 of which occurred in the first five months of the year and 3 in the last two months of the year. Six of these cases occurred between the ages of 4 and 10 and one between the age of 20 and 25. Four cases of Diphtheria occurred in January and July, the ages of the patients being between 5 and 35. One case of Typhoid was notified in June the age of the patient being between 35 and 45. The source of this condition could not be discovered.

Of the 24 cases of Pneumonia notified 8 occurred in January but otherwise they were fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, August, September and December being free from this disease. Ten of the cases were over 65 years of age and 4 cases occurred in each of the 20-35 and 45-65 age groups. Only 3 cases occurred under the age of three. The number of deaths from Pneumonia was 5, one being in the 45-65 age group and 4 were over 65 years of age.

Of the 7 cases of Eyrsipelas notified 5 were over the age of 45.

Acute Anterio Poliomyelitis was notified in one instance, the child being between the age of 2 and 3 and was admitted to hospital.

Two deaths from Encephalitis Lethargica occurred during the year. These had been notified previous to 1937. The total number of notifications for the year was only 46, a very considerable improvement on the figure for 1936, namely, 93. Only on three occasions in the last 19 years has the figure for notifiable diseases been less than last year's total.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	Total	New Cases				Deaths				Total
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Under 1 year	1			1						
1 to 5 ...										
5 to 15 ...	1				1					
15 to 25 ...	2	2				1	1			2
25 to 35 ...	3		3							
35 to 45 ...	3	1	1		1					
45 to 55 ...	4	2	1		1					
55 to 65 ...	2	1	1			1	1			2
65 and upwards										
TOTALS	16	6	6	1	3	2	2			4

The above Table shows that there were 16 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1937. Of this total 12 were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 were due to Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Of the cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis 6 were among males and 6 were among females. Two cases occurred in the 15-25 age group, 3 in the 25-35 age group, 2 in the 35-45 age group, 3 in the 45-55 age group and 2 in the 55-65 age group. It will be realised from these figures that Pulmonary Tuberculosis is still most frequent among people at the most useful ages of their lives.

The Table further shows that there were 4 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year, 2 of these occurring in the 15-25 age group and 2 in the 55-65 age group. This is a particularly low figure and it is hardly expected that it will be maintained.

There were no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In concluding this Report I wish to take the opportunity of thanking all the members of the Council for the kindness and consideration which they have always shewn to me. I also wish to thank the Officers of the Council for their helpful support, advice and co-operation which they have always been so willing to give when they have been consulted. Particularly do I wish to thank Mr. Piper for the loyalty he always shows and for the tactful way in which he handles his often difficult duties. It is in a great measure due to his efforts that the work of the Sanitary Department flows so smoothly.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

O. A. J. N. MURISET, M.B., Ch.B., Edin.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VETERINARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

	3 Months ending March	3 Months ending June	3 Months ending September	3 Months ending December
Premises visited	16	18	18	18
Milch cows and heifers inspected	121	129	106	104

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISITRCT COUNCIL OF RUSHDEN.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

I respectfully beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1937.

In presenting this Annual Report it is usual to prepare a number of Tables and Summaries from the Records of the work that has been carried out by the Public Health Department during the year.

These Tables, etc., will be found appended in the closing pages of this Report ; and for the convenience of the reader, they are set out as follows :

1. Number of Inspections and Visits.
2. Number of Notices, etc., served.
3. Food surrendered or seized.
4. Samples of milk taken, and results of examination.
5. Summary of defects remedied in dwelling-houses.
6. Summary of Voluntary Improvements to dwelling-houses, factories and other premises.
7. Number of disinfections after cases of Infectious Disease.

In Table 1 it will be seen that the total number of inspections and visits for the year is 1,579, whereas for the previous year it was 1,542. The figures are very similar and when the figures for the past five years are taken into consideration, it would appear that the Department has once again had a full year.

Upon looking through the Table, it is found that certain duties and activities have decreased, whilst other duties shew a marked increase. This is brought about by new legislation coming into force from time to time, requiring the exercise of greater diligence in a particular direction.

Dwelling-houses.

In Table No. 1, it will be seen that 108 dwelling-houses were inspected, a large proportion of the inspections being on account of complaints received with regard to the structural condition of the houses, or the insanitary surroundings.

According to the Circular (No. 1650. England, dated 4th October, 1937) issued by the Ministry of Health, inspections of houses are classified, and to conform to this classification it will be seen in Table 1 that 65 houses were inspected and the inspections recorded under the Public Health Acts, and that 43 houses were inspected and inspections recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.

During the inspection of these houses, none of them were found to be in such a state as to be " unfit for human habitation " although there were 42 houses found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

At the close of the year it was found that 87 houses had been rendered fit for habitation in all respects, this number being obtained from the number of houses dealt with during the year 1937, and the number of houses dealt with in 1936 but not rendered fit until 1937.

It was unfortunate that during the year it was found necessary to ask the Council for statutory powers for the purpose of obtaining the remedying of defects in four houses. Happily however, when the Notices were served, the owners caused all the repairs that were required by Notices to be carried out.

Housing Act, 1930—1936.

In the Annual Report for 1936, it was pointed out that there were in addition to the Council's Slum Clearance Programme, a further 8 houses scheduled for demolition. The Demolition Orders for these houses were served on the owners during 1936, and houses were erected by the Council in order to house the persons that were to be displaced.

For one demolished house, 3 houses had to be provided as 3 families were occupying the house up to the time of demolition.

In four other instances, the occupiers moved to other houses and renounced all claim to a new house.

In two instances the decease of 2 occupiers occurred and therefore the houses that were in course of erection for them were not required.

From this it will be seen that only 4 houses were required for the remaining 4 families to be displaced.

Under Section 51 of the Housing Act, 1936, one application was made for a Certificate of Fitness for 2 houses. A list of works proposed to be carried out was submitted to the Council and after the works of improvement to the two houses were carried out, the Council duly granted Certificates for a period of five years.

Voluntary Improvements to Dwelling-houses.

During the year there were several instances in which the owner-occupiers of houses caused their houses to be improved ; either by converting part of a room into a bath-room, or by causing additional sanitary conveniences to be constructed on the first floor. As these improvements necessitated the construction of new drains, etc., and the erection of sanitary fittings, the department was as usual called upon to advise with reference to the layout of these drains and sanitary fittings, and the supervision of the work-manship during the construction of the improvements.

Table 5 gives in detail all the works that were carried out during the year.

Towards the close of the year, a length of sewer was constructed by the Council, for the purpose of receiving the drainage from a number of houses on an Estate on the borders of the town. These houses up to that time had been dependent on cesspools, and on several occasions, nuisances occurred from the emptying of these cesspools.

By the end of the year the owners of two houses had caused the drains of their houses to be reconstructed in order that the drainage from the houses could be carried to the public sewer instead of the cesspools.

The details of this work will be found in Table 6.

Food Premises.

We have 3 Registered Slaughterhouses, and 4 Licensed Slaughterhouses in the town, and except for 1 Registered Slaughterhouse, these premises have constantly been in use throughout the year. They have all been kept in a cleanly state and free from any serious nuisance.

It will be seen by Table 1 that 383 visits have been made to these premises ; and these visits have been made for the purpose of the examination of all carcases and organs of animals destined for human food.

Considerable care is taken in these examinations and an endeavour is made to examine every animal, carcase and organ that is prepared for human consumption, but this occasionally proves impossible owing to the pressure of other duties at the time when attention would otherwise have been paid to one or more of the Slaughterhouses. In spite of this it will be seen that 57 visits in excess of last year's figures were made.

Throughout the year a practice has been made of keeping a record of every animal that was examined in each Slaughterhouse, and at the close of the year it was found that 3,197 animals together with all organs had been examined.

In the Circular (1650) issued by the Ministry of Health, information is required with reference to the post-mortem examination of all animals that were slaughtered in the district during the year, and destined for human consumption.

Embodied in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, is a table (No. 17) shewing the respective numbers of all animals that have been inspected during the year, together with the percentage of carcases and organs that were found to be diseased or unfit for human consumption.

At this stage it would be as well to say that 87 visits have been made to Butchers' Shops, more especially to those shops which obtain their supplies from slaughterhouses situated outside the town. In view of the large quantities of beef, mutton and pork that are brought into the town, it seems that the time has arrived for these particular quantities to be submitted for examination at a central depot before they are moved to the respective shops for sale. The figures given in the preceding paragraph relating to the examination of carcases and organs are absolutely independent of carcases

and organs or parts of carcases and small quantities of meat examined in Butchers' Shops.

In Table 1 will be found a detailed list of all the inspections to premises where food is prepared or sold and Table 3 shews the various kinds of diseased or unwholesome food surrendered or seized ; and the weights for the various quantities and the total weight for the year.

Milk and Dairies.

Milk being one of the principal articles of food, has this year received a great deal of attention, and at the close of the year it was found that 109 specimens of milk had been submitted for Bacteriological examination. These samples of milk are taken in the mornings of certain days, during the delivery of milk to the consumer. The specimens are then despatched for a Bacteriological Examination at the County Council Laboratory. In the Reports that are received from the Bacteriologist, there is a column for the final designation of each sample of milk submitted, viz.—" Good," " Moderate," " Bad," and for the 109 samples submitted during the year, it will be seen on reference to Table 4 that 46.78% were designated as " Good," 9.18% as " Moderate," and 44% as " Bad."

It would not be wise to take the results of these examinations too literally, for by referring to Table 4 it will be found that during the second half of the year, the results were very satisfactory and shewed a high percentage of milk designated " Good."

In the Table, the Monthly Incidence of the results of the examinations is set forth in order that any improvement in the Designations of the milk may be easily seen.

In the district there are 16 Registered Cowsheds, where milk is produced and then brought into the town and retailed. There are two other Cowsheds where milk is produced and conveyed out of the district and sold to manufacturers. All these premises have been inspected, and according to Table 1. it will be seen that 21 inspections have been made.

In one instance it was found necessary to ask the owner of a cowshed to cause the floor of the cowshed to be reconstructed, owing to its dilapidated state. The work was carried

out almost immediately. In two other instances it was necessary to ask for the premises to be limewashed. In all other instances the Cowsheds have been kept in a fairly clean condition.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, 3 Milk Dealers Licenses have been issued by the Council to Retailers and they are as follows :—Two Licenses for the sale of " Accredited " Milk, and 1 License for the sale of " Pasteurised " Milk. In two cases the Accredited Milk is obtained in bulk from Cowsheds outside this district and bottled in the district, whilst in the remaining case the milk is brought into the district each day already bottled.

There is also a Licensed Producer and Retailer of Accedited Milk, but the License is issued by, and is under the control of the County Council.

With reference to the sale of Raw milk, there are at the present time, 30 Retail Purveyors offering it for sale.

Infectious Disease Prevention.

The total number of visits incurred after notification of Infectious Diseases was 22 compared with 84 visits during the previous year. This year's smaller figure is due to the fact that a less number of notifiable diseases were notified, in comparison with the notifications in 1936.

In the above figures, visits after deaths from Tuberculosis and Cancer are also included, as these cases are visited for the purpose of advising as to the proper and thorough disinfection being carried out. A Detailed list is given in Table 1.

With reference to the disinfection of infected articles of wearing apparel, bedding, etc., it is very gratifying to report that the Steam Disinfector has done excellent service throughout the year at a very low running cost.

A large number of articles of bedding and wearing apparel have been destroyed, and in nearly all cases the beds had been in use by deceased persons. In many cases they could have been thoroughly disinfected at our Steam Disinfecting Station, and would have been quite safe for use after the disinfection had been carried out ; but as sentiment appeared to be the chief factor, the destruction was duly carried out.

Factories and Workshops.

It will be seen by reference to Table 1 that 82 visits have been made to these premises, and of this number 62 were to factories.

In order to meet the requirements of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, and the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, the number of persons employed in or about the premises of a factory or workshop is the first consideration during an inspection of the premises, and for the purpose of applying any Order or Regulation that has been made compulsory under the above Acts this must be kept in mind.

In Table 5, details are given of the improvements that have been carried out in these premises. In two instances it was found necessary to ask for 2 water-closets to be constructed whilst at another factory 2 water-closets were constructed voluntarily.

In several other instances it was found necessary to write to the occupiers of factories with regard to defects that had occurred in the sanitary conveniences, etc., and a list of the defects remedied during the year will be found in Table 5.

Petroleum, etc.

There has been an increase of 3 in the number of Petrol Stores constructed, and at present there is a total of 29,440 gallons of petrol stored in this town.

The chief item of interest among the new stores was the construction of a large underground brick vault to receive 2 cylindrical tanks of a capacity sufficient for 3,000 gallons of petrol. Special care had to be taken in the construction of this store owing to the waterlogged state of the ground in which the vault was built.

There are other stores in the town containing inflammable materials and these are Cellulose Solutions, Film Scrap and Carbide of Calcium. Of Cellulose Solutions, there is a total storage of 415 gallons. Of Film Scrap there is 2 tons, and Carbide of Calcium, 3 cwts.

The annual income from the fees for these Licenses has reached the sum of :—

	£	s.	d.
For Petrol Stores ...	22	5	0
Carbide of Calcium ...		10	0
Cellulose Solutions ...	2	5	0
Celluloid Film Scrap		10	0

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the annual " Rat Week " was held from the 1st to the 6th November.

The Council offered 2d. for every tail from a Rat that was brought to the Depot, Newton Road, and at the close of the week, it was found that 477 tails had been delivered at the Depot, and the whole expenditure was £3-19-6

Conclusion.

Again I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Sanitary Committee for their very kind and loyal support.

I would also like to tender my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health who has always been ready to render valuable advice at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. S. F. PIPER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF WORK BY THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

TABLE 1.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Complaints received	118
Inspection of houses under Public Health Acts ...	65
Inspection of houses under Housing Acts	43
Other premises	64
Inspection of houses and premises for Voluntary Improvement	26
Secondary Inspections for all purposes	367
Houses inspected for " permitted number " Housing Act, 1935	82
Smoke tests applied to house drains	5
Water tests	27
	797

Food Premises.

Slaughterhouses	383
Butchers' Shops	85
Grocery Stores	2
Fish Shops	3
Ice Cream Premises	5
Meat Vans	5
Other Food Premises	3
	486

Milk and Dairies.

Cowsheds Inspected	21
Dairies	8
Proposed Dairies	1
Milkstores	1
Proposed Milkstores	1
Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination	109
	144

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act.

Scarlet Fever	8
Diphtheria	6
Tuberculosis	5
Cancer	1
Other Diseases	2
	22

Factory and Workshops Act.

Factories Inspected	62
Workshops	2
Bakehouses	17
Workplaces	1
	82

Petroleum Acts.

Proposed Petrol Stores	7
Petrol Stores during construction	37
Petrol Stores	2

Cellulose Solutions Regulations.

Proposed Stores	2
	48
Total	1579

TABLE 2.

SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Number of Notices Served during the year	154
Secondary or Cautionary Letters	49
Statutory Notices (P. H. Acts)	4
Housing Acts, 1935 to 1936.	
Notice to Occupiers to quit houses	5
Statutory Notices	2
" Certificate of Fitness " of houses	2
Total	216

TABLE 3.

FOOD SURRENDERED OR SEIZED.

For Tuberculosis—Oxen.

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
1 Carcase	5	0	16
2 Forequarters	3	0	26
2 Sternums (Briskets)		1	20
7 Heads	1	3	4
23 Sets of Lungs	2	2	2
3 Hearts			14
12 Livers	1	3	12
1 Kidney			3
3 Spleens			6½
5 Skirts (Diaphragm)			11
1 Stomach...		1	2
1 Intestines			26
1 Lumbar Fat			6
1 Caul			18
1 Tail			2
Total	16	0	0½

Pigs.

4 Carcases	4	0	6
3 Forequarters	1	0	11
8½ Heads		3	20
24 Sets of Lungs		2	13
21 Hearts			21½
21 Livers		3	8
6 Tongues...			6
1 Spleen			0½
2 Mesentery			4
Total	7	3	6

Other Diseases—Oxen.

		cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
1 Head				18
4 Sets of Lungs			1	14
20 Livers		3	1	18
1 Flank				18
3 Spleens				10
2 Diaphragms (Skirts)				5
1 Heart				6
Total		4	1	5

Sheep

2 Livers				8

Pigs.

1 Head				14
17 Sets of Lungs			1	24
14 Hearts				15
11 Livers			1	16
1 Tongue				1
4 Kidneys				2
Total		1	0	16

Other Foods.

5 Cooked Hams			2	27
3 Tins of Corned Beef				18
Total			3	17

Grand Total ... 1 ton, 10 cwts., 0 qrs., 24½ lbs.

TABLE 4.

SPECIMENS OF MILK SUBMITTED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF RESULTS.

Month	Number submitted	Designations			Percentage		
		Good	Moderate	Bad	Good	Moderate	Bad
February ...	12	8	—	4	66.67%	—	33.33%
March ...	12	6	—	6	50%	—	50%
April	12	3	—	9	25%	—	75%
May	13	1	—	12	7.7%	—	92.3%
June	13	8	—	5	61.54%	—	38.46%
July	11	4	—	7	36.37%	—	63.63%
September ...	12	4	5	3	33.34%	41.64%	25%
October ...	12	7	3	2	58.34%	25%	16.66%
December ...	12	10	2	—	83.34%	16.66%	—
Total ...	109	51	10	48	46.78%	9.18%	44%

TABLE 5.

APPENDIX.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Houses redrained	1
Premises drained	1
Cesspools constructed	1
Water-services repaired	1
Washing floors constructed	1
Additional Gullies fixed	2
Interceptors fixed	1
Drains repaired	8
Inspection chambers repaired	1
Obstructions removed from drains	6
Caps fitted to interceptors	4
Water-closets repaired	22
Water-closets cleansed	1
Pedestal W.C. pans and traps fixed	2
Walls and ceilings in rooms repaired	29
Walls repaired	15
Ceilings replastered	8
Brick and stone walls repaired	1
Dirty premises cleansed	2
Rooms stripped, cleansed and repapered	48
Kitchens limewashed	2
Staircases stripped, cleansed and repapered	7
Woodwork repainted	5
Staircases repaired	1
Floors repaired	7
Skirtings in rooms repaired	2
Windows repaired	4
Window cills and heads repaired...	2
New windows fixed	1
Doors repaired	3
Sink waste pipes renewed	1
New sinks fixed (only)	2
Firegrates renewed or repaired	8
Coppers repaired	3
Rain water-pipes repaired	5

New gutters fixed	1
Gutters repaired	15
Parapet gutters reformed	1
Roofs repaired	14
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	8
Dampness in internal walls prevented	14
Dampness in external walls prevented	6
Wells cleansed and protected	1
Yards repaved	6
Yard paving repaired	14
Smoke nuisances abated	2
Dust nuisances abated	1
Animals removed from premises	2
Lands fenced in	1
Other nuisances	11
Sewers on private premises, obstructions removed from	6
Caps fixed to interceptors	1
Galvanised iron sanitary ashbins provided	32
Water pumps repaired	1

Factory and Workshops Acts.

Water-closets constructed...	2
Water-closets repaired	8
Water-closets and urinals cleansed	41
Doors and frames to lavatories refixed	1
Drains constructed	1
Interceptors fixed	1
Obstructions removed from drains	1
Other nuisances	2
Want of general cleanliness	1
Dust extractors fixed	2
Overcrowding abated	1

Bakehouses.

Walls and ceilings limewashed	3

Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.

Cowshed floors constructed	1
Cowsheds limewashed	2

Food Premises.

Receptacles for offal provided	1
Food premises cleansed	1
	414

TABLE 6.

VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT TO PRIVATE HOUSES AND OTHER PREMISES.

Rooms converted to bathrooms	2
Rooms (part of) converted to bathrooms	3
Rooms (part of) converted to lavatories	3
Rooms converted into lavatories	1
Rooms converted into kitchens	1
Baths fixed	3
Lavatory basins and waste pipes fixed	5
Pedestal W.C.'s and flushing cisterns fixed	5
Additional water-closets constructed	1
Sinks fixed	1
Gullies fixed	4
Soil and vent pipes erected	3
Drains constructed	7
Inspection chambers constructed	4
Earth closets removed and pedestal W.C. constructed...	1
Drains to cesspools diverted to Public Sewer	2
No. of drains constructed (for above)	6
Inspection chambers constructed	5
Interceptors fixed	2
Ventilation pipes constructed	1
Voluntary Improvements to Factories and Workshops.	
New W.C.'s constructed	2
New drains constructed	3
Petrol Stores constructed	6
Total	71

DISINFECTIONS, ETC., AFTER CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

At the Disinfecting Station.

Beds...	62
Pillows and bolsters	153
Articles of bedding	170
Articles of wearing apparel	63
Household articles	22
Books	20
Total	490

Articles Destroyed.

Beds...	38
Pillows and bolsters	42
Articles of bedding	21
Articles of wearing apparel	26
Household articles	8
Other articles	2
Total	137

Rooms Disinfected in Private Houses, etc.

After Scarlet Fever	5
,, Diphtheria	4
,, Pneumonia	11
,, Tuberculosis	11
,, Cancer	7
,, Erysipelas	2
,, Other Diseases	7
Total	47
Houses disinfested of vermin	3